

REMARKS

No claims are amended, claims 9 and 23-25 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-8, 10-22, and 26-28 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 9 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bell (U.S. 6,070,207).

Claims 9 and 23-25 are canceled, so the rejection of claims 9 and 23-25 is moot.

Applicants do not admit or agree that claims 9 and 23-25 are anticipated by Bell.

However, claims 9 and 23-25 are canceled in order to proceed to a Notice of Allowance in the application. Applicants reserve the right to re-introduce one or more of claims 9 and 23-25 in one or more continuation or divisional applications at a later date.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8, 10-22, and 26-28 were allowed.

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-8, 10-22, and 26-28.

Reservation of Rights

In the interest of clarity and brevity, Applicants may not have addressed every assertion made in the Office Action. Applicants' silence regarding any such assertion does not constitute any admission or acquiescence. Applicants reserve all rights not exercised in connection with this response, such as the right to challenge or rebut any tacit or explicit characterization of any reference or of any of the present claims, the right to challenge or rebut any asserted factual or legal basis of any of the rejections, the right to swear behind any cited reference such as provided under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, or the right to assert co-ownership of any cited reference. Applicants do not admit that any of the cited references or any other references of record are relevant to the present claims, or that they constitute prior art. To the extent that any rejection or assertion is based upon the Examiner's personal knowledge, rather than any objective evidence of record as manifested by a cited prior art reference, Applicants timely object to such reliance on Official Notice, and reserve all rights to request that the Examiner provide a reference or

affidavit in support of such assertion, as required by MPEP § 2144.03. Applicants reserve all rights to pursue any cancelled claims in a subsequent patent application claiming the benefit of priority of the present patent application, and to request joinder of any withdrawn claim, as required by MPEP § 821.04.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney (612-371-2132) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date NOVEMBER 6/2007

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 6th day of November 2007.

Amy Moriarty
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